

Congregational Meeting Today
Food Ministry Truck Problems Explained
Bible Study & Women's Circle Invite You
Learn How Community Organizing Helps
Increase Voter Participation



Weekly Newsletter

September 4, 2022

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

M a k i n g G o d ' s W e l c o m e K n o w n

Congregational Meeting Today

Please join us today after worship service to vote for a new “at-large” members of the Nominating Committee. Our Nominating Nommittee will help us discern new leaders (elders and deacons) for the term beginning 2023. Please plan to help us shape our future.

Here are the Nominees:

Members at large to be approved by congregational vote:

- Matthew Inadomi
- Di Pagel
- Rich Jones

Deacon (one deacon is appointed by the deacons and not voted on by the congregation).

- Martha Bauman

Elders (two elders areappointed by the Session and is not voted on by the congregation. The Session has not selected Nominating Committee appointees yet).

Women’s Circle Invites Connection

Every month the Prayer Circle meets, taking time to check in with one another by mutual invitation and then practicing the art of *lectio divina* (a monastic practice of listening to scripture with the eyes of the heart - how does this reading connect with where I find myself in life right now?). We also share prayers and close in prayer or with poetry.

Women’s Circle is always open newcomers and one time visitors. Call Di Pagel at 925.324.5271 or email dianapagel@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

The next gathering is Tuesday, September 5



Community Organizing, Voting & Putting Faith Into Action: Join us for Discussion, Sunday, September 24, noon

Following Fellowship Time, we will gather to hear testimonies from invited members’ experiences in past election efforts, canvassing, polling, registering voters, calling and organizing. We will also discuss what steps we may take together, including mailing postcards, phone/text banking, reaching out to neighbors, hosting or attending candidate forums, and hosting an information/discussion event about local and state measures. We invite all members, their families and their friends to join us at this important discusion.

This event will be co-lead by East Bay Faith In Action. One of Faith in Action’s primary mission goals is increasing citizen participation in elections and the democratic process and removing obstacles to voting and participation.

Habitat For Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley Addresses Local Housing Needs



Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley is a community partner of First Church. Habitat believes in a world where everyone has a decent place to live. The organization creates opportunities for families to transform their lives, gaining the strength, stability, and self-reliance they need to build for a better future. Current projects include:

Oakland - Renovation

It won't be long before a home on Manila Avenue is family-ready! The outside is getting dolled up with some exterior painting, while the inside is getting fresh tile and trim work.

Walnut Creek - New Home Development, Esperanza Place

Volunteers are hard at work preparing the way for yet another new foundation out in Walnut Creek, which means they're calf-deep in rebar! There's more to be done, though, with exterior fiberglass sheathing getting installed on the walls we've already raised.

San Jose – Neighborhood Revitalization

This project is nearing the final stage on the Rotary Club's deck down in San Jose, sprucing things up with a coat of paint.

Something for Everyone in Store at Upcoming Music Events

Oakland Civic Orchestra 30th Anniversary Concert

Sunday, October 23, 4 pm

The Oakland Civic Orchestra is turning 30! Martha Stoddard will lead the orchestra in the premiere of Oakland composer Alexis Alrich's *Romance No. 1* (the orchestra always features the work of local composers). The concert will also feature the works of Nielsen & Grondahl. **All are welcome to join the orchestra in celebrating this milestone at their free afternoon concert.**

Community Women's Orchestra Family Concert

Sunday, November 14, 2 pm

The Community Women's Orchestra creates a welcoming environment to engage, inspire, and celebrate women in classical music. The Fall Family Concert will feature *Fantasia on Welsh Nursery Tunes* by Grace Williams. The concert will also include selections from *Mother Goose Suite* (mvts 2, 4 & 5) by Maurice Ravel and more. **Tickets are available at the CWO website.**

Cantare

Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 4 at 4 p.m.

The Chorale, Chamber Ensemble, Nova and Children's Honor Choir join together with full orchestra to usher in the joy of the season. Works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Howells, and Rachmaninoff along with arrangements by Robert Shaw, Rutter, Bradford, Sjolund, Fry and others. The audience will be invited to join in singing carols and other holiday favorites. **Tickets are available at the Cantare website.**

Food Ministry Truck Stolen, Work Carries On

By Bill Coburn



Volunteers sort produce in bins in the open bed of Chris Weber's pick-up truck, in use by the Food Ministry for four years before its theft this month.

Over the past few years, the Food ministry has been able to accomplish its food gathering with the use of pickup trucks for our weekly food pick up rounds. We have had the resources and generosity of Chris Weber's truck and the use of Rajiv and his truck. We gather foods Fridays (Good Eggs and Western Service Workers) and Saturdays (Good Eggs and Whole Foods).

Chris has kept his truck in the church locked garage, and we have made use of it, when needed. This has been a wonderful resource because of its availability and capacity. The Food Ministry has contributed to operational truck costs. Recently Chris took the truck to a mechanic for servicing and when the truck was parked on a city street, it was stolen. Later recovered, but badly damaged, the truck will be abandoned.

Rajiv has been generous with the use of his truck and himself as he and Devon (both have been incredibly valuable as pick-up team members) have juggled both their schedules to allow pick ups even when Rajiv has been working (Rajiv is an Oakland firefighter and has an ever-shifting schedule, different every week). This week Devon was away, and Rajiv was working so the truck was not available.

This has left the pick up team with the need to arrange multiple vehicles as needed to get the food. We have managed with our 'Plan B' operations, but it is cumbersome. We are hoping to resolve this dilemma soon. Just wanted everyone to be aware of one of our challenges.

Lexine's street report will return next week.

Food Ministry Kitchen Report

By Bill Coburn

Friday, August 26

Paul and Bill did the Good Eggs and Western Service workers pick up this week and, thankfully, were able to get items in our compact cars. Food was brought in from the Food of God program.

Saturday, August 27

Volunteers: Bill, Bryan, Paul, Steve, Henry, Dorothy, and Peter. Teri was in phone communication. Paul and Steve fit everything in compact cars from Good Eggs and Bryan and Dorothy brought items from Whole Foods. Peter came, and Henry picked up from Arizmendi. Donations were received by Omni and First Pres Homes, Berkeley and from neighbor Sandy. With Teri being off, we prepared spaghetti for the Monday meal so that was half completed Saturday. The menu was set and Bryan prepared communication for Sunday's team.

Sunday, August 28

Volunteer Team: Patricia (whose last day with us was Sunday), Laura, Kyong, Ann, Matt, Louise, Pastor Matt, Pauline, Jeannie, Victor, Bill, Dorothy. We served pizza, fruit, chips, dessert, hard boiled eggs, Cliff bars. Tivo delivered meals to people living outside. Pauline and Ann prepared zucchini, grilled mushrooms, peppers, and onions for the spaghetti sauce. Ann reports volunteer Bonnie has recovered from broken bones and broken hip to return home, navigating with a walker.

Monday, August 29

Volunteers: Bryan, Natalie, Dan, Jan, Beth, Barbara, Joanne, Hunter, Ru, Crissi. Teri's very competent and experienced team and others from the Monday team undertook the meal prep. The menu was a freshly prepared meat sauce, with whole wheat spaghetti, garlic bread with fresh pesto, fruit and fruit salad, green salad, cauliflower and carrots, and desserts. Both days several items were given out at the gate.

New Training Ministry to Begin in First Church Kitchen This Week

Oak Harvest Kitchen is scheduled to begin its September Training Cohort in the First Church kitchen this Tuesday. The cohort will consist of 6-10 trainees receiving four weeks of hands-on education in food preparation for eventual hospitality and restaurant careers. The trainees will be led by Mandela Partners staff, whose mission is providing people with employment barriers the training needed for reentry jobs in the food service industry. Oak Harvest specializes in plant-based meals using produce from BIPOC farmers.

Oak Harvest Kitchen will share the First Church Kitchen with the Food Ministry and Food Not Bombs. Two training cohorts are scheduled for 2022. The first is September 6 – 29, Mondays – Thursdays, 1 – 4 pm. The second is scheduled for October 31 – November 17.

Anyone with interest in supporting the various kitchen ministries at First Church is encouraged to talk with Dorothy Dugger, Gay Cobb, or Bill Coburn.





**First Church is proud to support its
COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

- **Afterglow Chorus**
- **Cantare Choirs**
- **College Awareness**
- **Community Women's Orchestra**
- **Faith in Action East Bay**
- **Food Not Bombs**
- **Habitat For Humanity, East Bay-Silicon Valley**
- **Oak Harvest Kitchen**
- **Oakland Civic Orchestra**
- **Oakland Early Head Start Preschool**
- **Oakland Gay Men's Chorus**
- **Oakland Kids First**
- **Piedmont East Bay Children's Choirs**
- **Quinteto Latino**
- **ReCares**
- **The Lucy Kinchen Chorale**
- **Vituity Care Foundation**
- **Western Service Workers Association**

Elders

Linda Carter, Dorothy Dugger, Henry Gardner,
Suzie Inadomi, Elizabeth Cureton, Chris Weber,
Alessandra Mohar

Session Officers

Rev. Matt Prinz, Moderator
Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk
Rose Mary Richmond, Treasurer

Deacons

Judy Rowan, Louise Hill, Chris Kovach,
Marjorie Witt, Barbara Goodroe, Diane Hill,
Martha Bauman, Lorraine Provost

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Bill Coburn, Lexine Alpert

Photos by Matt Prinz, Bill Coburn, Lexine Alpert,
Linda Carter

Temple Tidings is a weekly publication. All are
welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.
Contact Micheline La Mont to submit content.



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Temple Tidings



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

Sunday, September 4, 2022

Lord, Are You Sure About This?

Making God's
welcome known

W E L C O M E

- Visitors:
- Please fill out a **Prayer Card** if you would like prayer from our pastor and deacons.
 - Please also fill out a **Welcome Card** so we can become acquainted with you and remember your name and your visit with us. If you would like to be added to our email and mailing lists the welcome card will do that too (you can also sign up on the home page of our website - at the very bottom)
 - Need help hearing? Ushers can provide **hearing devices** to assist you.

- Visiting Parents:
- Ushers can guide you to the **nursery** for certified childcare for children age three years and younger.
 - You may also make use of the **Parent Corners** at the rear sanctuary entrance or up front by the font.
 - Children's **worship bags** are available in the narthex or from the ushers with worship play items.
 - On the first Sunday of the month we celebrate **Family Worship & Communion** and children remain in worship.
 - **Godly Play** is offered for children all other Sundays. Children are escorted to Classroom 2 during *Passing of the Peace* and can rejoin their families during Fellowship Time.

ORDER of SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland is a **More Light** faith family,
on a journey toward becoming the **Beloved Community**.

We welcome and affirm persons of every age,
national origin, racial and ethnic heritage, gender identity, sexual orientation,
socio-economic status, physical ability and spiritual leaning.

INVITATION to WORSHIP

Prelude

Les Baricades Mystérieuses
François Couperin

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Offer God your worship and praise.

All: Before God formed us in our mothers' wombs, God knew and loved us.

One: Offer Christ your love and your devotion.

All: Before we drew our first breath, Christ consecrated us as his own.

One: Offer the Spirit your gratitude and your thanksgiving.

All: Before we heard the call to heal the world, the Spirit sustained our very heartbeat.

One: Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

All: We will offer God our worship and our praise.

Gathering Prayer

One: Wrap us in the arms of your love, Holy One, for we need to feel your healing touch. As we gather to worship you this day, humble our hearts, teach us patience, and touch

us with kindness. Open our eyes that we may see ourselves as you see us. Open our hearts to your Spirit of gentleness, that our words may be true, and our love may be pure. Bind us in a love that does not fail or fade, that we may bear all things, believe all things, and hope all things in your love, which never ends.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able
Hymn

#726: Will You Come and Follow Me

C O N F E S S I O N o f S I N & A S S U R A N C E o f G R A C E

Confession

One: Source of truth and love, we yearn for certainty in an uncertain world. Grant us the courage to proclaim the words you place in our mouths. Remind us that your love alone softens the heart and mind, allowing us to receive your mysterious ways. When we fear that others will not see things our way, remind us that we all see in a mirror dimly. Silence the clanging cymbals that distract us, and harken us to your voice once more, that we may abide in your love.

All: Amen

Silent Reflection

You are invited into a time of silent, personal prayer

One: In the name of the one who loves us unconditionally, we pray.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able
Assurance of Pardon

One: The one who formed us in our mothers' wombs continues to shape our lives today. Rejoice in the good news: God knows us and loves us as we are. God's love heals our wounds, and gives us hope for the time before us.

Response

#659: Know that God is Good

Know that God is good
Know that God is good
Know that God is good
God is good, God is good
(Repeat)

Passing of the Peace of Christ

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace

Greet those around you with a sign of Christ's peace.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud, or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor.

Prayer

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

THE WORD

Please stand as you are able

Song

#695: Change my Heart, O God

Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 1:1 - 10

One: The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. It came also in the days of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah until the end of the eleventh year of King Zedekiah son of Josiah of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, LORD GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you,” says the LORD.

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

One: For the Word in Scripture, the Word made flesh and the Word in our hearts.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Lord – Are you sure about this????

RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

Pastor Matt will lead the congregation in reflection on the reading and sermon.

Please stand as you are able

Hymn #816 : *If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee*

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The bread of heaven is here, leading us into life.

All: We draw strength from the bread of life.

One: The cup of blessing is at hand, bringing us salvation.

All: We find life in the cup of salvation.

One: Eat and drink, for Christ is here, offering us eternal life

All: Thanks be to God.

Words of Institution

Communion Music

#520: *Taste and See*

Sharing the Holy Meal

*Please come forward as the ushers allow. Communion is alcohol and gluten free.
Donations, Welcome Cards & Prayer Cards can be placed in the offering plate.
You may also make a donation by using this QR code on your smart phone:*



Prayer of Dedication

One: Source of every good gift, you have watched over us all our lives – guiding our ways, protecting us from harm, and showering us with your blessings. Receive these offerings from our grateful hearts, and bless the world with our heartfelt thanks, that all might know your amazing gift of love.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Please stand as you are able

Hymn *#691 : Lord, when I came into this Life*

Benediction

One: As we speak what we have heard,

All: God will give us the words.

One: As we go where we are sent,

All: Christ will lead the way.

One: As we love as we are loved,

All: The Spirit will work through our lives.

Postlude

Variations on “Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten”

(If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee)

Christopher Thorpe

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: David Alexander

Communion Set Up: - Diane Hill and Louise Hill

Guest Musician: Christopher Thorpe

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Monrovia Prinz

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Audio Setup: Diane Hill, Bex Fortin

Fellowship Time Refreshments : Julia Marquez